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10/589,595

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EXAMINER

ROSSOSHEK, YELENA

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/589,595	Applicant(s) PARK, HYUN-JU	
	Examiner HELEN ROSSOSHEK	Art Unit 2825	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/15/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the Application 10/589,595 filed 08/25/2006.
2. Claims 1-39 are pending in the Application.

Specification

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of **50 to 150 words**. It is important that the abstract not exceed **150 words** in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: numerous grammatical errors are found in the instant Specification, for example "data are" should

be replaced by --data is-- (paragraphs [0050], [0099], [0101], [0189] of the Patent Application Publication of the instant Specification).

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

6. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1 line 2 after "block;" delete "and"

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 1-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: claims 1, 11 and 26 are formulated unclear to what Applicant intent to mean, such as it is not clear where hardware block and software block are arranged. Therefore relationships between limitations are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

9. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

10. Claims 11-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The claims 11 and 26 are directed to a judicial exception; as such, pursuant to the Interim Guidelines on Patent Eligible Subject Matter (MPEP 2106), the claims must have either physical transformation and/or a useful, concrete and tangible result. The claims fail to include transformation from one physical state to another. Although, the claims appear useful and concrete, there does not appear to be a tangible result claimed. Merely applying the valid output data of the software block to the hardware block would not appear to be sufficient to constitute a tangible result, since the outcome of the applying the valid output data of the software block to the hardware block step has not been used in a disclosed practical application nor claimed as made available in such a manner that its usefulness in a disclosed practical application can be realized. As such, the subject matter of the claims is not patent eligible.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

12. Claims 1, 11, 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Park et al. (US Patent 7,185,295).

With respect to claim 1 (as best understood) Park et al. teaches a chip design verification apparatus (within chip testing apparatus shown on the Fig. 2 (col. 5, ll.29-30; abstract)), comprising:

at least one hardware block (within target shown on the Fig. 2 including hardware blocks (col. 5, ll.49-53)); and

a processing means including at least one software block of performing data communication with the hardware block, and verifying an operation between the hardware block and the software block (within target matching process to enable the hardware model and the software model of the target to show the same result as the simulation result by using the test vector before performing a verification of the target (col. 17, ll.19-24), wherein the test vector is applied to the target and the output data from target is compared with expected data as step 250 shown on the Fig. 14a (col. 17, ll.48-52)), the processing means including,

an interface means of transmitting output data of the hardware block, determining whether the output data of the software block is valid, and applying only the valid output data of the software block to the hardware block (within interface 32 shown on the Fig. 2, which transmits the test vector to the target 34 and transmits the result back to the testing program 30 (col. 17, ll.49-51) and when the input data is consistent with expected data (i.e. valid data) is kept as shown by step 370 of the Fig. 14a (col. 17, ll.55-56; ll.33-36));

a storage means of storing a software block and a chip design verification program for verifying the software block (within hard disk 22 shown on the Fig. 1

presenting a computer system for implementation of the verification process of the chip design, wherein hard disk 22 of the mainframe 2 (Fig. 2) stores testing program 30 (Fig. 2) including various of input/output data (col. 5, ll.36-38; ll.10-12)); and

a controller of transmitting the output data of the software block generated by the operation of executing the chip design verification program to the interface means, determining whether the output data of the hardware block input via the interface means is valid, and applying only the valid output data of the hardware block to the software block (within controller of the interface 32 shown on the Fig. 5 (col. 6, ll.55-56; ll.3-6), wherein interface 32 implements applying a signal to the target 34 (hardware block) and storing a signal applied from the target 34 /hardware block (col. 8, ll.31-33), wherein chip testing program runs by a normal termination of an operation when the last frame is completely transmitted/valid/kept in step 370 of the Fig. 14a (col. 17, ll.55-56; col. 7, ll.1-3)).

With respect to claim 11 (as best understood) Park et al. teaches the limitations similar to claim 1 including a chip verification method for a chip design verification apparatus including et least one hardware block and a processing means, the processing means having at least one software block, a chip design verification program, and storage means of storing input and output data, and interface means of interfacing with the software block and the hardware block (abstract, title).

With respect to claim 26 (as best understood) Park et al. teaches a chip design verification method for a chip design verification apparatus including a hardware block and a software block having at least one function block, a chip design verification

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program for verifying operations of the software block and the hardware block, a storage means of storing input and output data of the software block generated by executing the chip design verification program, and an interface means of performing an interfacing operation between the hardware block and the software block (abstract, title), the method comprising:

a clock generation step of allowing the chip design verification program to obtain a multi clock setting value to be provided to the interface means, and generate multi clocks in response to a system clock of the chip design verification program and the multi clock setting value to be applied to the software block, and allowing the interface means to generate multi clocks in response to the system clock of the interface means and the multi clock setting value to be applied to the hardware block (within clock controller 66 shown on the Fig. 5, which is a controller of the interface 32 and generates clock signals of the interface 32 (col. 7, ll.59-62), which is in conjunction with controller 64 performs verification/matching step between hardware block/target 34 and software block using interface 32 (col. 18, ll.12-21));

a software side operation step of transmitting output data generated by the operation of the software block operating in response to the multi clocks of the chip design verification program to the interface means, determining whether the output data of the hardware block received via the interface means is valid by executing the chip design verification program, and applying only the valid output data of the hardware block to the software block (by applying multiple clock signals to the target 34 (col. 18,

ll.18-21) and storing data outputted from the target 34 for analysis (col. 18, ll.38-43) and for further determination error identification (col. 18, ll.49-50)); and

a hardware side operation step of transmitting output data generated by the operation of the hardware block operating in response to the multi clocks of the interface means to the software block, determining whether the output data of the software block received is valid by executing the chip design verification program in the interface means, and applying only the valid output data of the software block to the hardware block (by applying multiple clock signals to the target 34 (col. 18, ll.18-21) and storing data outputted from the target 34 for analysis (col. 18, ll.38-43) and for further determination error identification (col. 18, ll.49-50; ll.51-60)).

With respect to claims 2-10, 12-25 and 27-39 Park et al. teaches

Claim 2: wherein the chip design verification program has a graphic user interface, and allows data transceived by executing the chip design verification program to be displayed via the graphic user interface (col. 4, ll.23-25; col. 7, ll.24-47; Fig. 9);

Claims 3, 12: wherein the chip design verification program obtains a multi clock setting value for operating the software block and the hardware block, and stores the value in the interface means (col. 7, ll.59-62; col. 18, ll.12-21);

Claims 4, 12: wherein the interface means has a clock controller of generating multi clocks in response to the multi clock setting value and a system clock of the interface means and applying the multi clocks to the hardware block (col. 18, ll.12-21);

Claims 5, 13, 27: wherein the output data of the hardware block has an output value of the hardware block changed in response to the multi clocks applied from the

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interface means, and a system clock count value of the interface means when the output value of the hardware block is changed (col. 18, ll.44-50; ll.54-57);

Claims 6, 14, 28: wherein the valid output data of the hardware block is an output value of the hardware block when the system clock count value of the interface means is equal to or smaller than the system clock count value of the chip design verification program, and is an output value of the hardware block when the output value of the software block is not changed even when the system clock count value of the chip design verification program is increased so as to be equal to the system clock count value of the interface means after determination that the system clock count value of the interface means is greater than the system clock count value of the chip design verification program (col. 19, ll.19-21; col. 22, ll.10-19);

Claim 7: wherein the chip design verification program generates multi clocks in response to the multi clock setting value and the system clock of the chip design verification program to apply the multi clock to the software block (col. 7, ll.43-47; col. 18, ll.18-21);

Claims 8, 15, 29: wherein output data of the software block has an output value of the software block changed in response to the multi clocks applied from the chip design verification program, and a system clock count value of the chip design verification program when the output value of the software block is changed (col. 18, ll.51-51-52; ll.58-60);

Claims 9, 16, 30: wherein the valid output data of the software block is an output value of the software block when the system clock count value of the chip design

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verification program is equal to or smaller than the system clock count value of the interface means, and is an output value of the software block when the output value of the hardware block is not changed even when the system clock count value of the interface means is increased so as to be equal to the system clock value of the chip design verification program after determination that the system clock count value of the chip design verification program is greater than the system clock count value of the interface means (col. 7, ll.33-48);

Claims 10, 22, 36: wherein the software block has a test-bench, and the test-bench supplies the multi clock setting value to the chip design verification program and operates in response to the multi clocks of the chip design verification program instead of the multi clocks owned by the test-bench itself (col. 14, ll.27-33);

Claims 17, 23, 31, 37: wherein the software side operation step includes:

a step of initiating an operation of receiving output data of the hardware via the interface means by executing the chip design verification program (col. 14, ll.59-63);

a step of confirming that the valid output data of the hardware block is received and inputting the output data to the software block, when the received system clock count value of the interface means is equal to or smaller than the system clock count value of the chip design verification program, or when the output value of the software block is not changed even when the received system clock count value of the interface means is greater than the system clock count value of the chip design verification program to cause the system clock count value of the chip design verification program

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to be increased so as to be equal to the received system clock count value of the interface means (col. 7, ll.33-48);

a step of transmitting the output data of the software block to the interface means when the output value of the software block is changed before the system clock count value of the chip design verification program is increased so as to be equal to the received system clock count value of the interface means (col. 7, ll.43-47; col. 22, ll.13-15); and

a step of initializing the increased system clock count value of the chip design verification program when the input step or the transmission step is completed, and increasing the system clock count value of the chip design verification program while monitoring whether the output value of the software block is changed (col. 22, ll.16-19);

Claims 18, 24, 32, 38: wherein the input step includes:

a step of inputting the received output value of the hardware block to the software block as the valid output data of the hardware block when the received system clock count value of the interface means is equal to or smaller than the system clock count value of the chip design verification program (col. 17, ll.55-56);

a step of increasing the system clock count value of the chip design verification program while confirming whether the output value of the software block is changed when the received system clock count value of the interface means is greater than the system clock count value of the chip design verification program (col. 22, ll.16-19); and

a step of inputting the received output value of the hardware block to the software block as the valid output data of the hardware block when the output value of

the software block is not changed until the increased system clock count value of the chip design verification program is greater than the received system clock count value of the interface means (col. 22, ll.16-19);

Claim 19, 33, 35: wherein the input step further includes: a step of displaying the valid output data of the hardware block by executing the chip design verification program (col. 7, ll.34-40);

Claims 20, 25, 34, 39: wherein the transmission step includes:

a step of increasing the system clock count value of the chip design verification program while confirming whether the output value of the software block is changed, when the received system clock count value of the interface means is greater than the system clock count value of the chip design verification program (col. 22, ll.16-19); and

a step of transmitting the output data of the software block to the interface means when the output value of the software block is changed in the case that the increased system clock count value of the chip design verification program is equal to or smaller than the received system clock count value of the interface means (col. 22, ll.16-19);

Claim 21: wherein the transmission step further includes: a step of displaying the valid output data of the software block by executing the chip design verification program (col. 7, ll.34-37);

13. Claims 1-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schubert et al. (US Patent 7,240,303).

With respect to claim 1 (as best understood) Schubert et al. teaches a chip design verification apparatus (within a hardware debugging system for debugging an electronic system including electronic circuit design (col. 7, ll.46-48)), comprising:

at least one hardware block (within electronic system 104 shown on the Fig. 20 including device under test 102 (col. 13, ll.8-10; ll.17-19; col. 56, ll.53-55)); and

a processing means including at least one software block of performing data communication with the hardware block, and verifying an operation between the hardware block and the software block (within hardware/software debugging system 2000 and 2100 shown on the Figs. 20 and 21, wherein debugging/verification is performed for software 2002 and hardware DUT 102 (col. 56, ll.59-63), wherein communication links 2106, 2108 transmit communication data between software block and hardware block as shown on the Fig. 21 (col. 57, ll.43-48)), the processing means including,

an interface means of transmitting output data of the hardware block, determining whether the output data of the software block is valid, and applying only the valid output data of the software block to the hardware block (within user interface 2116 shown on the Figs. 21, 33B (col. 58, ll.15-55; col. 59, ll.10-14; col. 9, ll.22-25));

a storage means of storing a software block and a chip design verification program for verifying the software block (within a design instrumentation database 114 shown on the Fig. 20 (col. 12, ll.47-48; col. 56, ll.53-56)); and

a controller of transmitting the output data of the software block generated by the operation of executing the chip design verification program to the interface means,

determining whether the output data of the hardware block input via the interface means is valid, and applying only the valid output data of the hardware block to the software block (within software debugger 2004 shown on the Fig. 21 to control execution of the verification program, wherein when at least one trigger condition is detected/valid output data, debugger 2004 halts the program execution (col. 57, ll.52-57)).

With respect to claim 11 (as best understood) Schubert et al. teaches the limitations similar to claim 1 including a chip verification method for a chip design verification apparatus including at least one hardware block and a processing means, the processing means having at least one software block, a chip design verification program, and storage means of storing input and output data, and interface means of interfacing with the software block and the hardware block (within hardware/software co-debugging system and method shown on the Figs. 21, 33B (col. 57, ll.9-11; col. 60, ll.17-20)).

With respect to claim 26 (as best understood) Schubert et al. teaches a chip design verification method for a chip design verification apparatus including a hardware block and a software block having at least one function block, a chip design verification program for verifying operations of the software block and the hardware block, a storage means of storing input and output data of the software block generated by executing the chip design verification program, and an interface means of performing an interfacing operation between the hardware block and the software block (within hardware/software co-debugging system and method shown on the Figs. 21, 33B), the method comprising:

a clock generation step of allowing the chip design verification program to obtain a multi clock setting value to be provided to the interface means, and generate multi clocks in response to a system clock of the chip design verification program and the multi clock setting value to be applied to the software block, and allowing the interface means to generate multi clocks in response to the system clock of the interface means and the multi clock setting value to be applied to the hardware block (within the software DIC API 3220/interface as shown on the Fig. 33B (col. 9, ll.22-26), which to interact with software block 2002 and hardware block DUT 102 (col. 60, ll.17-22), wherein interface 3220 implements control data signal between DUT 102 and software 2002 (col. 59, ll.27-32; ll.47-53) including setting trigger conditions (col. 17, ll.57-67), and wherein when at least one trigger condition is detected/valid output data, debugger 2004 halts the program execution (col. 57, ll.52-57), and wherein interaction is implemented within the communication controller 816 shown on the Fig. 8 (col. 59, ll.10-20));

a software side operation step of transmitting output data generated by the operation of the software block operating in response to the multi clocks of the chip design verification program to the interface means, determining whether the output data of the hardware block received via the interface means is valid by executing the chip design verification program, and applying only the valid output data of the hardware block to the software block (by software block 2002 shown on the Fig. 33B, wherein software debugger 2004 interacts with both interface 3220 and software block 2002 (col. 60, ll.23-24), and wherein software debugger 2004 interacts with the DIC of the hardware block 102 using the communication controller 816 (col. 59, ll.10-24)); and

a hardware side operation step of transmitting output data generated by the operation of the hardware block operating in response to the multi clocks of the interface means to the software block, determining whether the output data of the software block received is valid by executing the chip design verification program in the interface means, and applying only the valid output data of the software block to the hardware block (by software DIC API 3220, which controls retrieving data from hardware block 102 and back-annotates sampling data (col. 59, ll.27-33; 47-53)).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HELEN ROSSOSHEK whose telephone number is (571)272-1905. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on 571-272-7483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HR
06/27/2008

/Helen Rossoshek/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2825